

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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63

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 /070 W

----- 013069

R 051404Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 2993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: YOUTH OF MUHAMMAD

REF: DAMASCUS 1244

1. WE ASSUME THE NAME "YOUTH OF MUHAMMAD" (SHABAB MUHAMMAD) MAY REFER TO MORE THAN ONE ARAB POLITICAL GROUP. EMBASSY DAMASCUS MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE SHABAB MUHAMMAD THAT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED HERE IN EGYPT, THANKS TO THE SAUDI EMBASSY.

2. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THE ATTACK IN APRIL 1975 ON THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY IN CAIRO. AT THAT TIME SAG EMBOFF TOLD US THAT THE GROUP, SHABAB MUHAMMAD, WAS NEW AND APPARENTLY CREATED AS AN INSTRUCMENT BY ITS LEADER, SALIH SARIYYA. FINANCIAL BACKING HAD APPARENTLY COME FROM LIBYANS AND POSSIBLY ALSO IRAQIS. THE SHABAB MUHAMMAD HAD TAKEN OVER SOME MEMBERS OF THE OLD SAUDI-FUNDED ANSAR AL-SUNNA AL-MUHAMMADIYYA. THERE WAS NO CONNECTION TRACED BY THE EGYPTIANS OR THE SAUDIS BETWEEN THE OLD MUSLIM BROTHERS AND THE SHABAB MUHAMMAD (75 CAIRO 2568 --NOT SENT DAMASCUS).

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3. LAST YEAR THE SHABAB MUHAMMAD WERE ACTIVE ON EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, AS WERE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CELLS. LIKE

ALL THE RIGHTIST STUDENT GROUPS, HOWEVER, THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE WEIGHTED MORE TOWARD SOCIAL COMPLAINTS (WOMEN'S DRESS, ETC.) THAN TOWARD DIRECT POLITICAL CRITICISM OF THE SADAT REGIME.

YOUNG MUSLIM PROFESSOR, AN EX-PFLP MEMBER, TOLD US LAST YEAR THAT THE SHABAB MUAMMAD KEPT THEMSELVES FASTIDIOUSLY SEPARATE FROM THE BROTHERHOOD, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT THIS IS STILL SO.

4. SHABAB MUHAMMAD HERE, WAS, ACCORDING TO PRESS, TARGET OF AN UNEXPLAINED SWEEP LAST YEAR BY SECURITY FORCES OF CAVES RPT CAVES NEAR ASSIUT. MININT IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PICKED OUT MEMBERS WHO HAD TRAINED IN YEMEN AND THEN RETURNED TO EGYPT TO AWAIT THE MOMENT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERATION.
MAESTRONE

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